Glorifying outlawed customs and practices

2687. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the Government's notice that many TV channels are telecasting serials glorifying outlawed customs and practices like child marriage and bigamy causing adverse affects on the minds of viewers particularly youth and children; and

(b) if so, the precautionary measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) No such formal study has been brought to the notice of the Government. However, a complaint of promoting and glorifying child marriage in tele serial 'Balika Vadhu' was received in the Ministry.

(b) There is no pre-censorship of the Programme telecast on Private TV channels. However, all programmes and advertisements telecast on TV channels transmitted/retransmitted through the Cable TV network, are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. Action is taken as per rules whenever violation of Codes is brought to the notice of the Government.

In the case as referred to (a) above the matter was examined in the Ministry in consultation with Ministry of Women and Child Development and it was found that the serial had been conceptualized to highlight the evils of child marriage and that the serial does not air to glorify the issue of child marriage. On account of intervention by the Ministry, the Channel also took a proactive stand and started displaying repeated short messages to convey the evils of child marriage during the promos of the serial in a more pointed manner.

Deployment of retired judges for disposal of pending cases

2688. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to deploy retired district judges to dispose huge number of pending cases;

(b) if so, whether the supporting staff would also be similarly recruited or existing staff would be sufficient;

(c) whether the trial court judges are likely to be provided with laptops for expediting disposal of pending cases; and

(d) whether the court functionaries like 'Ahalmads' or other supporting staff would also be suitably trained?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Government is implementing a scheme for Computerization of District and Subordinate Courts in all States of the country and for upgradation of the Information and Communication Technology infrastructure of the Supreme Court and High Courts. Under the scheme, 13365 judicial officers including the trial court Judges have been provided with Laptops which is expected to expedite disposal of pending cases. Under the scheme, around 13000 Judges/Judicial officers and 55000 administrative staff of the courts have been trained in the use of Information and Communication Technology tools.

Inheritance of self-earned assets of parents

2689. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to bring in any law to make it mandatory for parents to distribute self-earned fixed assets among the sons and daughters particularly in the cases of son/sons inheriting the job/employment of the father/mother;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise in view of the reply to (a) above.

Priority to cases involving senior citizens

2690. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any orders under which law suits involving senior citizens are eligible to get priority in disposal thereof by the lower and higher courts, and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether all the High Courts are not giving priority to disposal of such law suits;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of law suits relating to senior citizens pending for disposal in various High Courts of the country and the steps contemplated to expedite their disposal or to fix any time-frame therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (d) Government of India has adopted the National Policy for older pejsons to protect their interests. In this context, Mr. Justice A.S. Anand, the then Chief Justice of India had during the year 1999 requested the Chief Justices of Hi^h Courts to evolve a system which may ensure timely disposal of the matters of bolder persons pending in the courts and requested all the High Courts to indentify and dispose of matters in which persons above 65 years of age are involved on priority basis.